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What's News—

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World-Wide

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A former Army officer pleaded innocent to charges that he sold secret U.S. coding information to the Soviet Union. If convicted, Joseph Helmich faces life imprisonment or death. He is being held on \$500,000 bond.

Washington Wire

DEMOCRATIC ATTACKS on vulnerable Reagan appointees promise to intensify.

The resignation of CIA spymaster Max Hugel, following reports of unethical business activities, encourages the critics. CIA chief Casey becomes a prime target; even GOP Sen. Goldwater is dissatisfied with him. Democrats, who have merely muttered about possible conflicts of interest involving strip-mining nominee Harris and Forest Service appointee Crowell, may begin to holler.

Some Republicans in Congress fret about slip-ups in checking nominees' backgrounds. They complain that the White House counsel's office is weak, seeing that as the trouble in the ill-fated effort to name Ernest Lefever as human-rights chief. "I worry there are number of scandals just waiting to be discovered," says a GOP strategist on Capitol Hill.